Purpose: _Cause – Effect_ _____

Title: Why Opossum's Tail is Bare

Characters?

Opossum
Rabbit
Cricket

Setting?

Opossum's house
The Dance

Before
_____

Opossum has a beautiful, bushy tail.

After
_____

Opossum has a bald tail.

List the EVENTS on the back.

Events

1. Opossum always brags about his tail.

2. Rabbit decides to play a trick on Opossum.

3. Rabbit suggests that Opossum let Cricket trim his tail so it will look nice for the dance.

4. Instead of trimming the hair on Opossum's tail, Cricket cuts it all off.

5. Cricket covers Opossum's tail with a ribbon.

6. Opossum takes off the ribbon at the dance, and he discovers his tail is bald and scaly.

Notes:
- Event #1 has to be included because it explains WHY the trick is played on Opossum. Without it, none of the other events would happen.
- Events #3, 4, and 5 explain HOW the trick is carried out. It's not enough to just say: "Cricket cut the hair off Opossum's tail." Event #3 connects Rabbit (#2) to Cricket (#4). Event #5 connects Cricket (#4) to the dance at the end (#6).
- Because Event #6 happens "at the end" of the story, and tells the reader what is in the "after" box, it would be repetitive to write both event #6 and the "At the end, …" sentence in the paragraph. So in this case, the recipe is adjusted. Event #6 is written to include the "after" box, and is followed by the concluding sentence. (See the example paragraph.)

Sample Introductory Sentence	Sample Concluding Sentence
In the story <u>Why Opossum's Tail is Bare</u>, Opossum changes.	As you can see, Opossum can't brag about his tail anymore.

Introductory sentence: The simplest template for students is to say: "In the story _____, _____ changes." This is effective because the names of the story and the character are introduced, and the whole paragraph is about how the character changes. A more complex introductory sentence could be: "In the story _____, an opossum's bushy tail becomes bald when a trick is played on him."

Story Map Writing: Why Opossum's Tail is Bare
Cause – Effect

        In the story <u>Why Opossum's Tail is Bare</u>, Opossum's bushy tail becomes bald when a trick is played on him. In the beginning, Opossum has a beautiful, bushy tail. Opossum always brags about his tail. So Rabbit decides to play a trick on him. Rabbit suggests that Opossum let Cricket trim his tail so it will look nice for the dance. Instead of trimming the hair on Opossum's tail, Cricket cuts it all off. Then he covers it with a ribbon. Finally, Opossum takes off the ribbon at the dance, and he discovers his tail is bald and scaly. Now Opossum can't brag about his tail because it is bald.

_____

Transition words: so, instead, then, finally, now

Juicy words: beautiful, bragging, decided, trimming, discovered